
SENATE BILL 6563

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Senators Honeyford, Swecker, Delvin, and Stevens

Read first time 01/18/08. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to a grant program for neighborhood organizations
2 to support community safety activities; adding a new chapter to Title
3 43 RCW; and making an appropriation.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that neighborhood
6 organizations that carry out crime watch and other crime prevention
7 functions are important to community safety. These groups encourage
8 neighbors to look out for criminal incidents in their neighborhoods and
9 to report such incidents to law enforcement. The legislature intends
10 by this act to create a grant program to support these functions and to
11 encourage innovation in the activities carried out by such groups to
12 promote safe and coordinated crime prevention strategies.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) There is established in the department
14 of community, trade, and economic development a competitive grant
15 program to encourage communities to develop coordinated strategies to
16 reduce crime and promote safety.

17 (2) The department of community, trade, and economic development

1 shall make awards, subject to the availability of funds appropriated
2 for this purpose, under the following terms:

3 (a) At a minimum, grant applications must:

4 (i) Provide evidence that the applicant is a nonprofit entity;

5 (ii) Define the geographic area to be served;

6 (iii) Include a needs assessment describing the impact of crime in
7 the area which may include, but is not limited to, local crime
8 statistics;

9 (iv) Explain in detail (A) the crime prevention and safety
10 promotion strategy for the area; and (B) an implementation plan
11 including objectives, tasks, and benchmarks; and

12 (v) Provide evidence (A) of additional resources committed to the
13 applicant's strategy totaling at least twenty-five percent of funds
14 awarded under this section. These resources may consist of public or
15 private funds, donated goods or services, and other measurable
16 commitments, including in-kind contributions such as volunteer
17 services, materials, supplies, physical facilities, or a combination
18 thereof; and (B) that the funds applied for, if received, will not be
19 used to replace funding for existing activities.

20 (b) Activities that may be funded through this grant program
21 include, but are not limited to, those that:

22 (i) Build community among neighbors and neighborhood organizations,
23 including law enforcement, other local government entities, and local
24 social services providers, to encourage collaboration in reducing crime
25 and promoting safety;

26 (ii) Promote awareness of the programs for which funding is sought;

27 (iii) Educate individuals on crime prevention and safety
28 techniques; and/or

29 (iv) Create or build on efforts by existing community programs,
30 coordinate their efforts, and/or develop other cooperative efforts or
31 initiatives to make most effective use of resources to carry out the
32 crime prevention and safety promotion strategy.

33 (3) The department of community, trade, and economic development
34 shall review applications for funding and, no later than October 1,
35 2008, select grant recipients. Subject to the availability of funds
36 appropriated for this purpose, the department may select new recipients
37 every two years thereafter.

1 (4) Upon receiving funds, each recipient shall provide the
2 department with data and other information the department deems
3 necessary to monitor the recipient's activities funded under this
4 section. The purpose of such monitoring is to determine whether the
5 recipient is making progress in reaching its benchmarks, with such
6 benchmarks having been specified in the initial application.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The joint legislative audit and review
8 committee shall conduct an evaluation of the extent to which:

9 (a) The department has monitored each grant recipient's activities
10 funded by the program created in section 2 of this act; and

11 (b) Each grant recipient is making progress in reaching its
12 benchmarks relating to crime prevention and safety promotion, with such
13 benchmarks having been specified in the initial application.

14 The department and each grant recipient shall submit to the
15 department and to the joint legislative audit and review committee such
16 data and other information as the joint legislative audit and review
17 committee determines is necessary and relevant to make these
18 determinations.

19 (2) The joint legislative audit and review committee may contract
20 with the Washington state institute for public policy for appropriate
21 portions of the evaluation required by this section.

22 (3) The joint legislative audit and review committee shall report
23 to the appropriate committees of the legislature not later than August
24 30, 2010, and August 30, 2012, and every two years thereafter as
25 determined by the legislature in the operating budget. The department
26 shall consider the joint legislative audit and review committee
27 evaluation of future applications by evaluated entities and for
28 projects similar to evaluated projects.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of five hundred thousand dollars, or
30 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
31 year ending June 30, 2009, from the general fund to the department of
32 community, trade, and economic development for the purposes of this
33 act.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act constitute
2 a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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